

The Story Club

by Edmund Vance Cooke

THE LOST HOUR

There was a little boy who lost an hour out of his life. He didn't lose it in play, because playing an hour away wouldn't be losing it. It is just as necessary for a boy or girl to learn to play as to learn to read.

He didn't lose it in work, such as helping father or mother, because work is useful, and to make an hour useful isn't losing it.

He didn't lose it in study, be-

really spending time for anything. Time is like money. You don't lose it by spending it, because when you spend it, you get something for it. You lose time the same way you lose money—by wasting it.

If you spend a dollar for a ball worth only 10 cents, you lose 90 cents, not because you have spent it, but because you have wasted it. You might just as well throw it into the gutter.



cause study makes your mind stronger and your chances of success in life better and to use time to make your mind strong isn't losing it.

For the same reason you can see that he didn't lose it by spending it in sleep, because sleep is necessary, or in eating, because it is well to take plenty of time to eat, and that he didn't lose it in

If you spend an hour and five minutes putting on your shoes which you might put on in five minutes, you lose an hour. You might just as well throw that hour out of your life, if you could do that with an hour.

And that's what happened to Sammy. He lost an hour out of his life. He wasted it, or dawdled it, or threw it into the gutter,